

thick white smoke billowing from a nearby motel roof. He quickly headed to the building in hopes of capturing some news photos when he realized no one else was aware of the blaze. At that point, he alerted the motel manager, sounded the fire alarm and sprinted upstairs to awake the motel guests. At one point the flames reached 40 feet in the air, yet Mr. Mercer continued to knock on doors.

Fire and police soon arrived and the motel was fully evacuated avoiding any injuries in the fire. The motel owner credited Mr. Mercer with saving lives and helping to prevent further damage to the building.

For his heroic action, Mr. Mercer was presented the Citizen Valor Award by the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department. Additionally, he was given the National Press Photographers Association's Humanitarian Award.

A recent Press-Register editorial honoring Mr. Mercer said it best: "These days, the title 'hero' is tossed about too casually and too often. However, we consider it fitting in this case. John David Mercer is a hero because he got into the game when he didn't have to, and because he placed the welfare of others above his own without being asked."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those who have praised Mr. Mercer's selfless act on that early December morning. He truly deserves to be called a hero.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Program. This successful program was created in fiscal year 1990 to develop the technical capabilities of small disadvantaged businesses by allowing major contractors to transfer and develop technology with them. The Mentor-Protégé Program has been essential to diversifying our defense supplier industrial base by expanding the number of qualified small businesses that can realistically compete for DOD contracts.

Current estimates show that protégé businesses make up 12 percent of all small disadvantaged business awards from DOD. However, a sunset clause in the original bill set the program to expire in 2010, and language extending the authorization to 2015 was removed from the FY11 National Defense Authorization Act. At a time when our small businesses and defense industrial base are both struggling, this program, which has a successful track record, is a critical tool for keeping our defense industrial base and our national security strong. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to ensure we reauthorize this critical program in fiscal year 2012.

HONORING MR. AND MRS.
WILFORD AND MARIE NORTON,
COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Wilford Norton, Sr., and Mrs. Marie Norton of Rolling Fork, MS, who were instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement during the origin of civil rights in Mississippi. Both Mr. and Mrs. Norton played significant roles in the success of voter registration and equality for local citizens in Sharkey County and surrounding counties. In 1965–66, Mr. Wilford and Marie Norton worked hand in hand with the late Mr. Sidney Alexander, Sr. (who was a strong advocate for civil rights) and other brave and resilient citizens to ensure all eligible and those that were of age were registered to vote. They spent many hours traveling throughout the counties visiting families to encourage them; this was during an era when many families were afraid of consequences and feared their safety. With much persuasion and long hours of labor, voters were registered.

In 1964, Marie and Wilford Norton also assisted in housing white students who traveled from Massachusetts and Ohio to assist the community in organizing the Head Start Program and other community programs. During this time the Nortons resided at 507 Magnolia Street, a small house with only three bedrooms. The Norton children sacrificed their beds for the comfort of their guests.

Shortly after the Massachusetts and Ohio visitors departed Rolling Fork, the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in the center of the field that stood across the street from 507 Magnolia Street. During this time (1964 or 1965) the field was vacant with no houses. The burning cross was center field directly in front of the Norton's home and center to the newly organized Head Start Center (Ms. Francis Alexander's home until her passing) adjacent to Magnolia Street on Poplar Street. This did not deter the Nortons or the Alexanders in the cause for justice and equality; their will to end bigotry and injustice continued strong in both families.

This was a time when some in the community were making it known that they wanted an end to inequality and made a stand as they formed Picket Groups; the Norton and Alexander children 10 years of age and above were taken out of school to assist in a week-long of picketing all local merchants in Rolling Fork; they were joined by a few other Rolling Fork families and families from surrounding counties. In 1966, two of the Norton girls were amongst the first to integrate the former Fielding L. Wright School (currently Rolling Fork High School) in Rolling Fork. Though this was not an easy transition for the participating Norton children and others, it was a sacrifice that families made to end segregation in the public school system.

In 1963, Mr. Wilford Norton, Sr., joined Mr. Sydney Alexander, Sr., and a few other men of Rolling Fork, MS, with much support from their wives to participate in the March on Washington with Martin Luther King, Jr., that occurred on August 28, 1963, to rally for freedom, jobs, justice and equality for all at the

Lincoln Memorial where Dr. King gave his awesome "I Have a Dream" speech. Mr. Norton could not have been any prouder when he returned to his family; he told of how this was one of the most incredible events and days of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 33 regarding H. Res. 72, "Directing certain standing committees to inventory and review existing, pending, and proposed regulations and orders from agencies of the Federal Government, particularly with respect to their effect on jobs and economic growth." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1. While I agree with my Republican colleagues that we need to address our nation's deficit, the budget cuts being proposed would do more harm than good for our economy. Specifically, the legislation's cuts to science and technology research would impair our ability to compete globally.

H.R. 1 would dramatically reduce investments in the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). These agencies conduct cutting-edge science and technology research that keeps America innovative and competitive. The budget cuts will not only create significant job losses today but also stagnate our economic growth in the future.

As a resident of Silicon Valley, I know firsthand what investments in science research and development can do for our economy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 1.

HONORING MR. ROBERT COTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert L. Cotton of Sallis, Mississippi. Mr. Cotton has always